

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 SAJ-01 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

TRSE-00 /087 W

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R 140445Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2690

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USMISSION GENEVA

USUN NEW YORK 10

AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY JUKU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, AS

SUBJECT: FIFTH CONFERENCE OF ASIAN LABOR MINISTERS

REF: JAKARTA 4177

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1. FIFTH CONFERENCE OF ASIAN LABOR MINISTER CONCLUDED APRIL

TENTH AFTER SESSIONS ON APRIL EIGHTH AND NINTH IN MELBOURNE HOSTED BY GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA; DELEGATION FROM EACH ASIAN ADDRESSEE POST ATTENDED WITH MINISTER OR SECRETARY OF LABOR IN MAJORITY OF CASES HEADING EACH GROUP. FORMAT OF CONFERENCE WAS TO HOLD PLENARY SESSIONS EACH DAY WITH SEPARATE SESSIONS FOR TWO PANELS WHICH CONSIDERED:

- (A) THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ASPECTS OF EMPLOYMENT; AND
- (B) PROMOTION OF TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION IN LABOR AND RELATED FIELDS.

2. AT CONCLUSION OF CONFERENCE ALL DELEGATIONS UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED AND SIGNED AN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE WHICH NOTED THE FOLLOWING:

(A) THE CONFERENCE UNIMOUSLY NOMINATED BLAS F. OPLE, PHILIPPINES SECRETARY OF LABOR, AS ITS CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE SIXTIETH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION. CONFERENCE DECIDED TO SUPPORT AUSTRALIA AS THE ASIA REGIONAL GROUP'S CANDIDATE FOR CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE I.L.O. GOVERNING BODY FOR 1975/76.

(B) CONFERENCE DECIDED ALSO TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE STEPS TO SECURE FOR MEMBERS OF THE ASIAN REGION AT LEAST ONE OF FOUR ADDITIONAL TITULAR SEATS AND ONE OF THE EXPECTED FOUR ADDITIONAL DEPUTY SEATS ON THE I.L.O. GOVERNING BODY. SUBSEQUENTLY, CONFERENCE PICKED FOR TITULAR STATES: AUSTRALIA, IRAN, PAKISTAN; AND FOR DEPUTY SEATS: SRI LANKA, INDONESIA, THAILAND. (BANGLADESH DELEGATE WAS NOT ABLE TO ASSOCIATE WITH FOREGOING DECISIONS BUT WILL ADVISE HIS GOVERNMENT).

(C) TURNING TO REPRESENTATION ON ASIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO BE DECIDED AT GENEVA DURING MAY OR JUNE, CONFERENCE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT REGIONAL INTEREST WOULD BE BEST SERVED IF BANGLADESH WOULD BECOME MEMBER OF THIS COMMITTEE. FINAL DECISION WAS HELD OVER FOR CAUCUS MEETING, TO BE HELD IN GENEVA, DURING SIXTIETH SESSION. (LABBAT NOTES ALL THESE MATTERS WERE FIRST DISCUSSED AT ASIAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN JAKARTA. SEE REFTEL).

3. BALANCE OF COMMUNIQUE CONTAINED NO NOTABLY NEW MATTERS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONFERENCE NOTED AT LENGTH THEIR UNANIMOUS DESIRE TO PURSUE CO-ORDINATED PROGRAMS IN THE FIELDS OF TRAINING, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS, AND ALL MANPOWER AREAS. THEY AGREED TO EXCHANGE EXPERTISE AND TO CO-ORDINATE EFFORTS TO OBTAIN AND USE ASSISTANCE OF I.L.O. , U.N.D.P. AND RELATED AGENCIES, AND UNILATERAL PROGRAMS OF THE MOST ADVANCED NATIONS IN AND OUT OF THE REGION.

4. AMIR GHASSEM MOINI, MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS OF

IRAN, WHO SERVED AS CONFERENCE VICE-CHAIRMAN, EXTENDED INVITATION FROM HIS GOVERNMENT FOR CONFERENCE TO HOLD ITS NEXT SESSION IN TEHRAN DURING AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER 1976, REPEAT 1976. INVITATION WAS UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED.

COMMENT: CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS MADE BY HOSTS WERE MORE THAN ADEQUATE WITH FULL-TIME GOA REPRESENTATIVES ASSIGNED TO EACH DELEGATION. SITE OF CONFERENCE WAS NEWLY-OPENED HILTON HOTEL. TRANSPORTATION PLANNED TO BE BY GOA FEDERAL GOVERNMENT VEHICLES WAS UPSET BY SUDDEN STRIKE OF CHAUFFEURS. MASS MOVEMENT OF DELEGATES, WHEN NECESSARY, WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY BUS. PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULE TO ADDRESS CONFERENCE ON TWO OCCASIONS, WAS FORCED TO STAY AWAY BY PRESSURE OF PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS. HIS UNFORTUNATE ABSENCE WAS NOTED WITH SOME DISPLEASURE BY MINISTERS, WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH MANPOWER PROBLEMS OF TWO-THIRDS OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION. POORLY ARRANGED PUBLICITY FOR CONFERENCE RESULTED IN VIRTUALLY NO ATTENTION AT ALL BEING PAID BY AUSTRALIAN MEDIA, ALTHOUGH SSOME OVERSEAS RADIO AND TV COMPANIES WERE OBSERVABLY BUSY.

LABBAT WILL AIR-POUCH OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE; DELEGATES LIST; PANEL REPORTS; AND COMPANY STUDY PAPERS TO EACH ADDRESSEE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, ELECTION CANDIDATES, COMMUNIQUES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MELBOU00423
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750129-0500
From: MELBOURNE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750453/aaaabxbl.tel
Line Count: 138
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 JAKARTA 4177
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FIFTH CONFERENCE OF ASIAN LABOR MINISTERS
TAGS: ELAB, AS, XC, ILO, (OPLE, BLAS F)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006